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Annual Report of the Aux-
iliary Society of Frederick
County, Va. for colonizing
Free people of colour.
Winchester, 1820.



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THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
AUXILIARY SOCIETY
OF
FREDERICK COUNTY, VA.
FOR COLONIZING THE
FREE PEOPLE OF COLOUR
IN THE
UNITED STATES.

WITH AN APPENDIX.


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WINCHESTER,

PUBLISHED BY THE AUXILIARY SOCIETY.

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1820.

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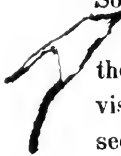
On Saturday the 4th day of November, 1820, the Annual Meeting of the Auxiliary Colonization Society of Frederick County, Va. was held in the town of Winchester, when, agreeably to a request of a committee of arrangement, William L. Clark Esq. delivered a very appropriate and impressive address. After the address the following report was read. As soon as the ordinary business of the society was dispatched, it was moved, seconded and carried, that the thanks of the society be presented to Col. Augustine C. Smith, who had drawn up the report, for the service he had rendered, with a request that he would be good enough to furnish a copy of it for publication. It was also moved, seconded and carried that the thanks of the society be returned to William L. Clark, Esq. for his very suitable address, with a request that a copy of it be furnished, to be printed with the report—from a compliance with which request Mr. Clark begged to be excused, stating as a reason, that he thought the report comprized within itself every thing of sufficient importance to claim the attention of the public at present.



R E P O R T.



The board of managers of the Auxiliary Society of Frederick County, for colonizing the free people of colour of the United States, now submit their annual report to the Society. This Society has been in operation for three years, during which time it has met with much encouragement. The encouragement has indeed transcended its utmost expectation ; and as this is the first written report of the proceedings of the board of managers, it is deemed necessary, for the purpose of diffusing information, to give both a particular narration of the exertions made by the Frederick Auxiliary Society, and also a general view of the objects and progress of the American Colonization Society. This course is rendered more requisite by the misrepresentations of some who are either ignorant of, or hostile to, the objects of the Society.

A decorative flourish consisting of a single, bold, sweeping line that curves upwards and to the right, ending in a small hook.

Africa, the pride of antiquity, and the original seat of the arts and sciences, has for three hundred years been visited with every act of oppression which could be devised by the tyranny or injustice of mankind. After improving the condition of the ancient nations of Europe and Asia, by instructing them in the principles of civil government and the maxims of philosophy, she has, in modern ages, been rewarded for her services by a system of cruel, inhuman persecution, unparalled in the annals of the world. By means of the slave trade, that scourge

of Africa, the countries bordering on her sea coast have been desolated, her virtues blasted, her peace destroyed, her civilization retarded or converted to barbarism, and her intercourse with foreign nations annihilated, except in the diabolical traffic of human flesh ! Our own country is blackened with the victims of slavery, already amounting to nearly two millions of souls ; and to contemplate their increase through the vista of futurity is alarming to the patriot and the philanthropist.

While we deprecate the horrors of slavery, it is consoling to reflect that our country, is originally guiltless of the crime, which was legalized by G. Britain under our colonial government, and consummated by commercial avarice, at a time when our powerless legislatures vainly implored the mother country to abolish a trade so impious in its character and dreadful in its consequences. In the year 1772, Virginia discouraged the importation of slaves by the imposition of duties, and supplicated the throne to remove the evil ; and in 1778, having broken the fetters of British tyranny, she passed a law prohibiting the further importation of slaves.* The attention of the continental Congress was called to this interesting subject as early as the year 1774, and the opposition then expressed to the slave trade was afterwards effectuated by a law enacted by the constitutional Congress as soon as its delegated powers would permit. In an address which was carried unanimously in both houses of the British parliament, it is said " that the United States of America were honourably distinguished as the

* It will be recollected that Virginia did not at all avail herself of that humiliating concession made by the framers of the Federal Constitution of importing slaves till the year 1808.

first which pronounced the condemnation of this guilty traffic." In pursuance of our example, enforced by the eloquence of Clarkson, Wilberforce, and their coadjutors, the British government, and subsequently the other nations of Europe (with the exception of Portugal) have fully united in this work of humanity ; whilst Portugal has also renounced the slave trade to the north of the equator.

About the era of the French revolution, the colony of Sierra Leone was firmly established, as an asylum for captured Africans, on the very spot where modern slavery commenced. This coincidence is truly remarkable, and connected with the progress of the principles of civil liberty, and the many laudable institutions of the present revolutionary period, for the propagation of Christianity, and the gradual extension of human happiness, may serve to convince us that the omnipotent being " who seeth not as man seeth," can direct these astonishing events to work together for the good of his creatures, even amidst the wreck of nations, the crush of empires, and the desolation of the world.

From the successful establishment of the colony of Sierra Leone, the idea was probably first suggested in this country of colonizing the free people of colour. In the year 1802, Mr. Jefferson, then president of the U. States, in compliance with the request of the Virginia legislature, communicated by Governor Monroe, endeavoured to accomplish the important object of our Society by a negotiation with the Sierra Leone company, and afterwards with Portugal : but the attempt at that time unavoidably failed, and was perhaps prematurely made.

Not discouraged, however, with the failure, we find the venerable patriot, in 1811, again approbating the proposition of Ann Mifflin, of the society of Friends, to procure a colonizing establishment on the coast of Africa. In short, the advocates of the plan of colonization increased, until on the 21st of December, 1816, the first meeting to form a colonizing Society was held at Washington, and shortly afterwards the American Society was established by the particular exertions of Doctor Finley, of New Jersey, and under the patronage of individuals who are considered ornaments to their country; many of whom occupy a seat in the highest councils of the nation, and some in every department of the government. Auxiliary associations followed in rapid succession, and on the 20th of September, 1817, was formed the auxiliary society of Frederick County, Va. #

Encouraged by the approbation of a committee of Congress, of the legislatures of Maryland, Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee, of various ecclesiastical synods and conventions, and of a host of friends not less distinguished for their wisdom than their virtue, of every profession, and from every section of the United States, the American Society, with a degree of prudence only equalled by its unshaken resolution, proceeded to adopt such incipient measures as were necessary to lay the foundation of the splendid edifice which it proposed to erect as a refuge for suffering humanity. Its first act was to appoint Samuel J. Mills and Ebenezer Burgess, "gentlemen possessing all the qualifications requisite for the important trust confided to them, as agents to explore the western coast of Africa, and to collect such in-

formation as might assist the government of the United States in selecting a suitable district on that continent for the proposed settlement.”* These agents discharged their duty with the strictest fidelity, and after collecting the most ample and accurate information on the subjects committed to their charge, the result of the mission to Africa “leaves no further room to doubt that a suitable territory, on the coast of that continent, may be obtained for the contemplated colony, at less expense than had been anticipated.”†

After the favorable report of the agents was generally known, Congress passed an act on the 3d of March 1819, authorizing the president to employ, whenever he shall deem it expedient, any of the armed vessels of the U. States, on the coast of Africa, or elsewhere, to capture all American vessels engaged in carrying on the slave trade, in contravention of the acts of Congress prohibiting the same, and to bring into the United States all negroes found on board such captured vessels; which negroes he is further empowered to remove beyond the limits of the U. States, and to appoint agents, residing on the coast of Africa, to receive them. One hundred thousand dollars were appropriated to carry this act into execution. The act just referred to was evidently intended to co-operate with the humane exertions of the American Society; and in conformity with this construction the president has appointed two agents, with competent salaries, to select a proper situation on the African coast (in conjunction with the agents of the coloniz-

* 1st Annual Rep. 6.

† 2d Annual Rep. 5

ing society) as an asylum for the captured negroes; and this situation will be that adopted for our colony, which will thereby enjoy the protection and support of the government, while it will assist the latter in enforcing the act of March 1819.

The American Society, in the course of the present year, chartered a vessel at New York, for the purpose of transporting to Africa a select number of free persons of colour from the numerous applicants solicitous of embarking as first settlers of the colony. Those selected consisted of industrious tradesmen, and other persons of intelligence, sobriety, and moral deportment, whose qualifications were peculiarly adapted to the exigency. Many were necessarily rejected, on account of the limited funds of the society, and it was truly afflicting to behold their disappointment and chagrin. At the request of the President of the U. States, the vessel was subsequently re-chartered by government, and the free persons of colour who embarked have been transported at the public expense to the African coast, to found a settlement which may serve as well for the colony, as for a receptacle to the captured negroes under the act to which we have already referred. This band of colonists was hospitably received by John Kizel, a coloured man and a chieftain of the Island of Sherbro; and after a temporary residence in that Island, which is situated but a short distance from the continent, the colonists are to proceed to the place of their permanent abode on the Bagroo river, about twenty miles from its mouth, where the adjacent territory promises all the advantages which commerce,

agriculture, manufactures, and a salubrious climate, can bestow. On this branch of the subject we shall enlarge in a subsequent part of our report.


We have been informed, though not officially, that our colonists suffered much from sickness while in the Island of Sherbro. Three white persons attached to the colony, and fifteen of the coloured people, are probably dead. This event, however distressing, affords no ground for despondency. From the actual circumstances in which they were placed, it could not have happened otherwise. Destitute of the ways and means of selecting our own time for embarking the expedition, it was delayed week after week and month after month, until the government was ready to unite in our object; and when the settlers arrived on the coast of Africa, the rainy season was just commencing and it was too late for them to prepare a shelter from the inclemency of the weather in the healthy country to which they were destined. In this dilemma, they were forced to occupy the habitations provided for them by the humane John Kizel, on Sherbro Island, the situation of which is remarkably low, humid, and fatal to strangers. Not being enured to the climate, many were assaulted with disease and death. Precisely the same effect, resulting too from the same cause, was witnessed in Virginia during the late war, as will be recollected by those defenders of their country who were marched to Norfolk in the sickly season, or before they could prepare to encounter it. From this cause alone, two companies of regular soldiers lost by disease upwards of forty men in the course of a few months. In some of the militia regiments the mortality was much

greater. Ten or twelve military funerals, in one day, was not an uncommon sight at Norfolk. And yet there are as few deaths reported from Fort Nelson and Fort Norfolk, as from any military posts in the U. States. And the obvious reason is, because the troops are gradually enured to the climate, and are not sent to those posts just at the commencement of the sickly season, and before they have acquired a knowledge of police duties.

We know that the first settlers of the United States were severely scourged with disease. Such indeed is the fate of all new colonies. We are confident, however, that no pestilence, beyond the ordinary lot of the most favoured climate, will assail our colonists after they shall occupy the beautiful and elevated country intended for their reception. If, however, actual experiment should convict us of error, we shall be the first to acknowledge it, and we shall then look elsewhere for the accomplishment of our views. While so large a portion of the world is within the reach of our benevolence, the insalubrity of a small territory shall never frustrate the important objects of the colonizing society. Some of our agents are no more. Others have already offered to supply their place. Some of the coloured people have found a grave in their own country. Their brethren in America, so far from being discouraged at the event, are importuning our society to transport them to the colony. There is, in reality, no cause of discouragement, as we have attempted to prove, and shall demonstrate more fully hereafter when we come to speak of the Bagroo country.*

*See Appendix A.

It is now time to return from our digression, and relate the exertions of the citizens of Frederick County in this work of justice and humanity.

 Ours was the first Auxiliary society formed in Virginia. On the 20th of September, 1817, its operations commenced, and in a short time about six thousand dollars were subscribed, payable in five annual instalments, besides permanent subscribers. The individuals who contributed so liberally on this occasion, enjoy the smiles of an approving conscience, the gratitude of their country, and the admiration of the world. May they live to behold their efforts crowned with success—to see the midnight gloom which envelopes benighted Africa, dissipated by the sun of righteousness, and “Ethiopia stretch out her hands unto God !”

Nor can we omit to mention that the additional sum of \$146.13 was lately collected in Frederick County, by female exertions, for the purchase of clothes to be distributed by the agents of the Society among the unlettered sons and daughters of Africa, who may resort to them for instruction. On this occasion, the ladies, with a tender sensibility peculiar to their sex, in a very short time completed three hundred and sixty four garments, for no other reward than the pleasure of doing good : and to this will be added the blessing of that God who delights in universal benevolence ; who created bond and free, Africans and Europeans, of the same kindred, and equally heirs of immortality.

Our Society pursues its career with unabated vigour ; but while we continue to gain many new proselytes, and to receive the sanction of the public from all parts of the

Union,* we have to regret that many, whose virtues we respect, whose talents we admire, and whose motives must be pure, are still indifferent or hostile to the objects of the Society. Have they, we would ask, sufficiently examined our principles and our progress? Or have they been precluded by professional avocations from bestowing due consideration on a Society unquestionably charitable in its design and wide as the world in its operation? If the latter be the fact, we must entreat their attention to the remainder of this report, while we shall endeavor to refute some of their most material objections; as we cannot forego the hope of being able to convince some of our respectable opponents, that their opposition arises from an inattention to the facts and principles by which we are governed.

We contend that the design of the Society is both expedient and practicable.

// The bare mention of the high objects of our pursuit, ought to convince every reflecting mind of their expediency. What are those objects?

1st. To colonize the free people of colour of the United States.

2d. To prepare the way for the gradual emancipation and colonization of our slaves.

3d. To contribute to the abolition of the slave trade.

4th. To perform an act of justice to Africa and her descendants, by restoring her unfortunate children, and by disseminating through that continent the principles of Christianity and civilization.

5th. As a consequence of the preceding propositions,

*See appendix B and C.

to promote the prosperity of our own country and save it from impending ruin.

It was indispensably necessary to avow our real objects, since some have falsely charged us with wishing to rivet more strongly the fetters of slavery by removing the free persons of colour; whilst others, with no less absurdity, have accused us of an intention to emancipate all the slaves by a compulsory process equally repugnant to our wishes and transcending our authority.

1st. We say it is expedient to colonize the free people of colour. In Greece and Rome, emancipated slaves became useful citizens, because nature had branded them with no characteristic difference of complexion. But “can the Ethiopian change his skin?” A manumitted slave remains a negro still, and must ever continue in a state of political bondage; and it is obvious that he who is deprived of the inherent rights of a citizen can never become a loyal subject. Who would submit to a negro president or a negro chief justice? The very idea inspires indignation and contempt. Thus degraded in the scale of existence, the emancipated negro must be habitually prone to infamy and rebellion.

Again. The free negroes corrupt our slaves by urging them to plunder the community and affording a receptacle to the fruits of their depredations; by also inculcating ideas of freedom and independence, which must terminate in insurrection. Some individuals of this class, we readily admit, by their honesty and industry have surrounded themselves with many of the comforts of life; but, unfortunately, their example is not less dangerous than that of an emancipated vagabond. By

witnessing the situation of his affluent brother, the slave contrasts it with his own, pants for liberty, becomes discontented and disobedient, and in order to move in the same sphere with the fraternity of freed-men, at the expence of his integrity mimics the dress and manners of fashionable life. From what has been urged, the expediency of removing this nuisance from the community is clearly inferable, both in relation to their interest and ours ; and this end can only be attained by means of the colonizing Society.

2d. It is expedient to establish a colony as a depository of manumitted slaves, and for the encouragement of emancipation. That slavery is an evil no one can deny. All must desire to cure the disease or mitigate its ravages. If the evil be of fearful magnitude *now*, what will it be *fifty years hence* ? And how much would the danger be aggravated by letting loose a horde of emancipated outlaws in the heart of our country ! Such a procedure would be repugnant to the laws of Virginia, and to the best dictates of reason and patriotism. The mischief, then, can only be averted by providing a colonial settlement; for in that case, as soon as slaves shall be emancipated, they will become proper subjects of colonization, and under the existing law will be compelled to resort to our Society for liberty and happiness.

By thus gradually removing this class of our population, we should not only be liberated from the apprehension of a servile war, at which humanity shudders, but would moreover greatly improve the moral worth of the community. "The whole commerce between master and slave," says Mr. Jefferson, "is a perpetual exer-

cise of the most boisterous passions ; the most unremitting despotism on the one part, and degrading submissions on the other. Our children see this, and learn to imitate it : for man is an imitative animal. The parent storms, the child looks on, catches the lineaments of wrath, puts on the same airs in the circle of smaller slaves ; gives loose to the worst of passions ; and thus nursed, educated, and daily exercised in tyranny, cannot but be stamped by it with odious peculiarities. " Who then would aid in realizing this dark picture of human depravity, by opposing the benevolent intentions of our society ?

This gradual abolition of slavery is also essential to the improvement of agriculture and the increase of national wealth. That agricultural improvement would result from the proposition here advocated, is evidenced by the example of our sister states, whose soil is cultivated by freemen. " It appears," says Adam Smith, " from the experience of all ages and nations, I believe, that the work done by freemen comes cheaper in the end than that performed by slaves. It is found to do so even at Boston, New-York, and Philadelphia, where the wages of common labour are so very high. "* The superior advantages of the labour of freemen over that of slaves, is also strikingly illustrated in a letter of Robert G. Harper, Esq. published in the first annual report of the American Colonization Society. " What the slave consumes is for himself : what he produces is for his master." Nor can we doubt the truth of the proposition when we survey the large estates of Virginia reduced

* Wealth of Nations. Vol. 1. Page 70.

to a wretched cultivation by the labour of a host of slaves, who consume the scanty products of their toil for their own miserable subsistence, only leaving to their indigent master the unreal consolation of swaying his sceptre over hundreds of human beings.

3rd. The establishment of a colony will contribute to the abolition of the slave trade ; and if it will produce this result, who can doubt its expediency. To dwell on the horrors of this inhuman traffic would fill a volume and exhaust your patience. Suffice it to say that all civilized nations abhor the crime and are striving to arrest its detestable career. But all the navies of Europe and America have accomplished less in this charitable work than the small colony of Sierra Leone, containing only twelve thousand souls. The slave trade is cherished and supported by the barbarism and intestine commotions of the African tribes, whom the dealers in human flesh have excluded from the light of knowledge to be derived from an amicable intercourse with foreign nations, and corrupted by introducing among them the immoderate use of ardent spirits, and exciting them to sell and destroy each other. By means of religious instruction and a well digested system of education, the colony of Sierra Leone has struck at the root of the malady and effectually checked the slave trade among the adjacent nations. At the different schools in the colony are now educating no less than two thousand African children. And if so slender a population, originally formed of a heterogeneous mass of unlettered captives, has effected so much, what may not be expected from our colony, composed of skilful artists and enlightened christians ?

In their report of the 18th of April 1818, the committee of the House of Representatives consider the prospect of civilizing Africa and thereby terminating the odious traffic in slaves, through the intervention of the colonizing society, as "calculated to elevate the hopes of the philanthropist." It is evident that the slave trade must cease when civilization shall commence. In Tuckey's expedition it is remarked, that "if we mean to accelerate the progress of civilization, it can only be done by colonization." In Beaver's African Memoranda, colonization is said to be "the safest and surest way of abolishing the slavery of the Africans, of usefully exploring the interior of their country, and of introducing among the people, religion, letters, and civilization." These authorities and arguments are sufficient, we trust, to establish our position.

4th. It is expedient to found a colony as an act of retributive justice to Africa and her descendants. Although we were originally guiltless of her wrongs, yet by refusing to redress them, when we have the power, we become accomplices in the crime.

The illustrious patriots who signed our declaration of independence, were well acquainted with the principles of natural and revealed law, when they declared before an admiring world—"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal—that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights—that among them are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Even the Heathens, aided only by the light of nature, knew how to appreciate the dignity of their species—

Prona que cum spectent animalia cœtera terram,
Os homini sublime dedit, cœlum que tueri
Jussit et erectos ad sidera tollere vultus.

It is said by a Roman philosopher that man has a moral resemblance and relationship to the Deity. And we are told in the book of Genesis that ‘ God created man in his own image and gave him dominion over all other animals. ’ And in the New Testament we are informed, that “ God hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell upon the face of the earth. ” Accordingly we find that Africa was peopled by the sons of Ham, and the Ethiopians, or negroes, are descended from Cush, and in scripture are often called Cushites. It is generally agreed that Ham was worshipped as the principal Deity of the Egyptians, under the title of Jupiter Ammon.

Yet it is impiously maintained by some, that the poor, unfortunate negroes, are lower than ourselves in the scale of being, and nearly allied to the apes and monkeys ! Jacob Oson, a negro of New York, in defending his countrymen from this charge of inferiority, sagaciously remarks : “ It is no place to judge of the strength or agility of the tiger in his cage. Furthermore, the majestic state of the lion may be debased by bondage. Let his majesty the lion be unbound, and he will resume his former prerogative. So let us be emancipated from our incumbrances, and then, where ignorance and darkness reign, religion and true science would abound. As a garden uncultivated soon grows to weeds, so is the state of our nation, being enslaved in America for about three hundred years, trodden under foot, and considered as the offscouring of the earth. ” These are

the words of a *negro*, and they have been cited to prove that negroes can feel and think like human beings, though deprived of the power of action.

But it is said the degraded negroes will not consent to be colonized, for to them slavery is a blessing. "Whom do they hope to persuade," says the Haytian Baron De Vastey, "that slavery is a blessing? Is it us who have experienced all its horrors? If their declarations be sincere, why not put themselves in our place? Their example will have a far more powerful effect than all the absurd reasoning they can employ." These are also the words of a descendant of Africa. Rely upon it, the Africans are not brutes, and therefore will return with joy to the land of their ancestors. This disposition has in fact been already evinced from one end of the U. States to the other, and the Society, from the scantiness of its funds, is forced to reject thousands : and let it be remembered that of the thirty eight whom the lamented Paul Cuffee transported from Boston to Sierra Leone, at his own expense, there was not one disposed to return with him to America. Of nearly twelve hundred free blacks in Nova Scotia, only four or five refused to embark for Sierra Leone.

In addition to our obligation to repair the injuries inflicted on Africa, we, in common with the rest of the world, owe her a debt of gratitude and veneration, as the original nursery of the arts and sciences from whence ancient Europe and Asia derived all that was valuable in architecture, poetry, painting, statuary, philosophy and government. The Egyptians (who were negroes according to Herodotus) were the instructors of Abra-

ham and Moses. They were the astronomers and literati of Chaldea. Their pyramids, obelisks, mausoleum, and temple of Jupiter, have from the early periods of antiquity, and the two former to the present day, been considered the most stupendous monuments of human grandeur.

Africa, too, was once distinguished for her great men, religious, military, and civil. Her ancient worthies need no eulogium from us, for the historic page is blazoned with their fame. Even in modern times the sparks of her genius flash through the gloom of persecution, demonstrating her capacity to recover her primeval glory. Hannibal, an African negro, rose to the rank of lieutenant general and director of artillery under Peter the great of Russia ; and his son was also a lieutenant general of artillery. Don Juan Latino, a negro, was in 1717 a teacher of the Latin language at Seville in Spain. Higiemondo, a negro, was a distinguished painter. Francis Williams, also a negro, in the eighteenth century taught Latin and the mathematics, and was a Latin poet of some celebrity. We could enumerate many instances of negroes in the U. States celebrated for their talents and moral excellence. These few examples have been selected out of a variety of others, to prove that the general debasement of the descendants of Africa arises not from a natural inferiority, but a want of opportunity to expand their faculties. If this be the fact ; if Africa has such powerful claims to our gratitude and justice, and her emancipated children are anxious to return to her bosom, shall we raise the standard of opposition ? Shall we not rather assist in so benevolent a

cause? Shall their dark complexion, produced entirely by climate and habit, exclude them from the rights of humanity? If so, well may they retort in the language of Cowper;

Slaves of gold! whose sordid dealings
Tarnish all your boasted powers,
Prove that you have human feelings,
Ere you proudly question ours.

5th. The proposed colony will certainly advance the prosperity of our country, and probably save it from destruction. The truth of this proposition is deducible from the foregoing facts and observations. Who does not dread the horrors of a servile war? Jefferson has said, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that his justice cannot sleep forever. The Deity knows no attribute that can take sides with us in such a contest." Let us then improve the auspicious moment and forward the plan of colonization.

Having thus attempted to prove the expediency of our design, we proceed to consider its practicability:

1st. A fertile and salubrious territory can be procured, at a moderate expense, on the western coast of Africa, uniting every possible advantage. This proposition can be fully demonstrated by extracts from the most authentic writers. For the sake of brevity, we shall content ourselves, with giving the result of their enquiries, and for further information on this subject we refer to the several annual reports of the American Colonization Society.

On the Bagroo river, opposite the Island of Sherbro, it is contemplated to locate the colony. This country is healthy, fertile, well watered, and agreeably interspersed

ed with hills and vallies, luxuriant meadows covered with perpetual verdure, productive uplands, and lofty mountains.

The Bagroo has four fathoms water, which is amply sufficient for the purposes of foreign commerce ; and the country adjacent will admit of a profitable inland navigation. Its productions consist chiefly of rice, corn, cassada, yams, sweet potatoes, bananas, plantains, cocoa nuts, limes and oranges, coffee, indigo and cotton ; besides a variety of medicinal roots, and plants, and woods, barks, and leaves for colouring. Domestic fowls are quite numerous. Fish, also, are said to be numerous and of a good quality. The animals used for food consist of deer, buffaloes, sheep, goats, oxen, wild hogs and fowls. The soil is admirably adapted to the cultivation of sugar, and every species of tropical produce. Some estimate may be formed of the fertility and productions of the Bagroo country by adverting to those of Sierra Leone, which is but a small colony, and inferior to our proposed settlement in every respect : yet Governor M'Carthy thinks it might in a few years produce a sufficiency of rice for the supply of all the British Islands in the West Indies. A statement published in the 2d annual report of the American Colonization Society, of the exports for one year from Sierra Leone, will throw additional light on the subject now under consideration.

This delightful region, so favourable to agriculture, commerce and manufactures, like the rest of tropical Africa, is nearly depopulated by the slave trade, which has desolated the coast, and driven the persecuted na-

lives to the interior. Hence millions of acres are uncultivated, and may be purchased almost on our own terms. The agents of the parent Society, when in Africa, thought that the same goods which would purchase a full cargo of slaves, would exchange for lands sufficient to accommodate five or ten thousand people.

All accounts concur in assuring us of the salubrity of the climate on the Bagroo; nor could it be otherwise than salubrious, considering its elevated situation, refreshed by a pleasant sea breeze on the one hand, and the mountain air on the other. Its temperature is much more uniform than that of our climate, and by no means so high as might be supposed. "At Cape Coast Castle," says Meredith on the Gold Coast, "which is situated in about 5 degrees of north latitude, the thermometer has been known, at *one* period, as high as 93 degrees; but the *usual degrees* of heat observed in the *hottest months*, were from 85 to 90 degrees; and Cape Coast Castle is considered the hottest situation on the Gold Coast." At Winnebah, east of Cape Coast, in the months of June, July, August, and the greater part of September, Fahrenheit's thermometer has been known to vary only from 74 to 78 degrees. Compare this temperature with that of our own country. At the town of Windsor in Vermont, in September of the present year 1820, from the 6th to the 10th of the month, inclusive, the range of the mercury was from 88 to 98 degrees. At Washington City, in July last, the mercury was as high as 96 degrees, and the mean temperature of that month was nearly 79 degrees. Our climate is rendered unhealthy by its sudden and great fluctuations; from which defect the Bagroo climate is exempt.

2d. The friendly disposition of the natives, enhanced by a national sympathy for the colonists, will greatly facilitate the establishment of our colony. Aided by this friendship, "the colony of Sierra Leone boasts, at this moment, a greater degree of prosperity, than distinguished any one of the British colonies, now the U. States, at the same period after its foundation." True it is, the colonists once suffered from an incursion of their neighbors: but this calamity originated, in the early period of the colony, from their own imprudence and misconduct, and was so easily and effectually repelled, that it has never since been repeated. Our colonists, composed of better materials, need not dread a similar invasion, particularly as their objects are now understood and approbated by the natives. Instead of the war-whoop of the savage, armed with the implements of death and torture, they go to meet their friends and brothers, a generous, humane, hospitable race, who already welcome their approach, as the harbinger of civilization and social happiness. We say the Africans are kind and amiable; and who, that is acquainted with their history, can doubt it? On the coast, they are measurably corrupted by the slave trade: but what white man ever visited the interior without being treated hospitably, and at his departure receiving the negro's benediction?

Go, white man go, but with thee bear
The negro's wish, the negro's pray'r,
Remembrance of the negro's care.

3rd. Ways and means can be supplied to effectuate the objects of our society. And why not? Has not the colony of Sierra Leone been successfully established? Were not the colonies of our own country established

under more unfavourable auspices? Could Xerxes transport five millions of souls, with a hostile design, to an immense distance, by an expensive land transportation; and cannot we transport a much smaller number, under the banners of philanthropy, by water, a method of transportation far more cheap and expeditious? In the course of twenty five years 1,500,000 slaves have been exported from Africa. And cannot we restore an equal number in the same time? Can avarice and iniquity effect more than humanity and justice?

It is undoubtedly desirable gradually to emancipate and colonize the whole coloured population of the U. States. If it be expedient to colonize the *whole*, it is also expedient to colonize a *part*; therefore in effecting only the latter, we deserve the patronage of the public. We shall attempt, however, to demonstrate the practicability of accomplishing the whole object, with the co-operation of government; while we shall claim the victory if we prove it practicable to colonize only one thousand, or even a smaller number, of these unfortunate beings.

Captain Paul Cuffee, from actual experiment, estimated the expense of transporting free person of colour to Africa, at 60 dollars each. The whole number of blacks, bond and free, may be estimated at 1,900,000, and the annual increase at 58,000. An annual appropriation of 5 millions of dollars would be adequate to transport every year at 60 dollars each, 83,333, which is 25,000 more than the increase. Thus by sending out every year 25,000 more than the increase, we would in 40 years export the whole number. This calculation

is strictly accurate, making due allowance for the annual diminution of the increase.

According to Seybert's statistics, the whole number of free persons of colour in the U. States amounted in 1810, to 186,446. Admitting 23,000 of this number to be able to transport themselves, the residue, agreeably to the foregoing process, might all be transported in two years! And we take it for granted that money will always command any number of vessels, even if it should be necessary to build them.

It is obvious that the estimate of the expense of transporting the whole black population, would be lessened at least one third, were we to make a fair deduction for all those who would be able, from the ordinary causes applicable to emigration, to defray their own expenses. But we are willing to concede every thing to our adversaries, confident of our ability to defeat them upon their own data.

But it is said the appropriation of five millions per annum is too enormous. To this we reply that the evil to be remedied is still more enormous, and the vast resources of our country, continually augmenting, would fully justify an expense essential to her own safety and welfare. To some persons 15 millions appeared a great price for the purchase of Louisiana; and yet, by giving that price, we probably escaped a war which would have cost us 100 millions, besides the loss of valuable lives. Thus a liberal expenditure may eventually become a national saving.

But although the nominal expense would be considerable, our country would in reality lose nothing: on the contrary, the national wealth would be greatly increa-

sed. The sale, or value, of the lands necessary to the support of our black population, would more than defray the expense of their transportation; and by substituting in their place the labour of freemen, the saving would be astonishing.

This idea may be illustrated by referring to the state of agriculture and domestic economy in the slave holding states. A farmer cultivates a farm of 10,000 acres with 300 slaves. Of these at least 150 may be deducted as supernumeraries, and fifty more as old and infirm, children and sick, domestics, and such as are required to administer to the daily wants of their fellows. But deduct only fifty in all, and it is evident that they, as well as their master and overseers, must be supported by the labour of the residue. Owing to this wretched system connected with the bad cultivation, the indolent and destructive habits, generated by slavery, the master amasses nothing, but barely supports his family, while his property is daily depreciating. It may be assumed that the labour of 40 freemen judiciously bestowed on these 10,000 acres would be as productive as that of 300 slaves. But the labour of 300 slaves may, under our assumption, be considered about equal to their support, and at 100 dollars each will amount to 30,000 doll.; which sum will be necessary for the preservation of the estate, or principal. The support of 40 free labourers, at 150 dollars each, will be 6000 dollars. Consequently, the gross produce of the labour of the slaves and freemen being the same, while the profits of the former are entirely absorbed for the support of the farm, there will be an actual, clear profit in favour of the latter, of \$24,000

over and above their support. And thus there will be an addition to the national wealth of \$ 24,000, resulting from the substitution of 40 freemen in the room of 300 slaves.

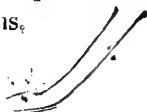
Some of the slaves, chiefly on small estates are doubtless employed more profitably : but admit that our argument applies to 100,000 of them, which is little more than one twentieth of the whole, and by extending the computation to this number there will result an annual addition to individual and national wealth of 8 millions of dollars ! But 5 millions of dollars annually, for a limited period, would be an abundance to colonize the whole black population. Therefore by appropriating this sum, the annual saving to the nation would in a few years be immense.

This gain would in process of time be greatly enhanced, owing to the improved cultivation of freemen : and the lands would be more equally distributed among the citizens, who would labour for their own emolument, and thereby augment still more the national wealth. Let us, for example, divide the farm of 10,000 acres into 40 farms of 250 acres each, which would be considered large in Pennsylvania and other states exempt from the curse of slavery. The clear annual profit of these farms, at 1000 dollars each, would at no distant period be 40,000 dollars : and this sum would be saved by transporting the 300 slaves now employed on the same land.

By parity of reasoning, the removal of 100,000 slaves, similarly employed, would save annually to the nation 13,333,333 dollars.

We must now draw to a conclusion, with an humble hope that the common Father of all mankind will excite a

sympathy in behalf of his children; and we are confident that when our objects shall be fully understood, and impartially considered, they will be generally embraced by statesmen and politicians, moralists, philanthropists, and Christians.



APPENDIX.



[A]

CIRCULAR.

WASHINGTON, October 27, 1820.

The Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society have to discharge the painful duty of laying before the Auxiliary Societies and the public the distressing intelligence received from the coast of Africa. The following extract of a letter, from a correspondent in London, is the latest information obtained. Mr. Doughen's arrival (which may be daily expected) will give a more particular account of the nature and cause of the calamity :

Extract of a letter from a respectable gentleman in London dated August 28th, 1820.

“ You will probably have heard, before the receipt of the present, of the fatal calamity which has been permitted to befall Mr. Bacon and most of his *white* companions on the coast of Africa, in their benevolent undertaking for the welfare of their fellow creatures. It is another of that class of Providential dispensations which repeats, with a loud voice, “ Be still : and know that I am God ;” but which should never be permitted to discourage human efforts. Mr. James Doughen, the only survivor of the four, arrived here a few days since, from whom I learn that he addressed letters, about the sixteenth of May, to the Secretary of the Navy and to Mr.

Caldwell,* (through the Governor of Sierra Leone,) relating the melancholy particulars. Having arrived on the coast of Africa, in the ship *Elizabeth*, on the 9th of March, Mr. Bacon purchased a schooner at Sierra Leone in order to land the people and disembark the stores, &c. at Campelar, about 25 miles up the river Sherbro, with the design of remaining there till the rainy season was over, and then to proceed to the place which might be selected for the reception of recaptured negroes, &c. About the 20th of March they arrived at Campelar, and were engaged till the 5th of April in landing their articles; on that day Mr. Bankson and Mr. Crozier were taken ill on board the *Elizabeth*, and went in the schooner, on her last trip, to Campelar, where Mr. Crozier died on the 15th of April. Mr. Townsend, who was an officer of the ship of war, and commanded the schooner, died on the 16th. Mr. Bankson recovered at that time, but was afterwards carried off. Mr. Doughen was taken ill about the 16th, and Mr. Bacon the 17th; after remaining at Campelar nine days, in that state, he prevailed on to go to Sierra Leone, with Mr. Lefevre and Dr. Stormont, (two gentlemen from thence,) for medical aid, but died on the passage, the 3d May, at Cape Shilling, an English settlement. Mr. Doughen left Campelar on the 9th June, at which time 15 out of 92 people of color had also died; the remainder were generally in health, though a part had been ill and recovered. Before Mr. Crozier's death, he appointed Mr. Coker, a mulatto, and one of the emigrants, as his deputy agent in case of his death; and, before Mr. Doughen

* These letters have not yet arrived.

left the coast, a *palaver* had been held with the chiefs, from whom a grant of land had been obtained, and Mr. Coker's intention was to proceed with the people to a town called Mano, (which empties into the Bagro,) which had been offered them for shelter till their own buildings were erected. All Mr. Bacon's books and papers were left with Mr. Coker. Mr. Doughen's desire is to return, as speedily as possible, to the United States, and, as there are two ships to sail shortly for New York, (the *Cincinnatus* and *Criterion*,) it is probable he will embark in one of them. Mr. D. being appointed by Mr. Bacon as architect under him as government agent, it appeared proper that he should see Mr. Rush, the American ambassador, and acquaint him with all the circumstances; he has addressed a note to Mr. Rush, on the subject, and I presume will be able to see him to morrow."

At present we would request our friends not to be discouraged. The board lament the unfortunate issue of their first efforts; but they had no right to calculate upon the absence of those disasters and disappointments which attend all human affairs, and which are ordered or permitted to attend them for purposes, the wisdom and goodness of which, though we may not see, we cannot doubt. We lament, also, the loss sustained by the Society and our country, and the cause of humanity, in the deaths of those who so freely offered themselves in the service of God, and for the good of man, to toil and suffering and death. They have "entered into their rest, and their works do follow them;" and we trust they have obtained "the prize of their high calling;" and their

example and their fate, we rejoice to know, instead of deterring, has encouraged others to assume their posts. To these dispensations of the Almighty we bow in submission, and, at the same time, resolve to go on in the path of duty. Were we to stop now, we lose all that has been done; and much, notwithstanding this disaster, has been done. We are not without a proper degree of consideration for the lives and comforts of those who are now again ready to adventure in our service; and, could we believe that the climate of the coast of Africa was such as to forbid all hope of settlement, we should be ready to abandon our purpose, and look elsewhere for a more safe asylum: but the circumstances that have occurred there, do not, in our judgment, any further prove such a fact than similar instances during the late season in our own country.

We think proper, also, to remark that, from the unforeseen detention of the *Elizabeth*, her arrival upon the coast was unseasonable. The rains were at hand, and no adequate provision, we think it probable, was made for the shelter and comfort of the people. The zeal and activity of the agents, in providing for this state of things, we have no doubt, increased their exposure and danger. Against all these disadvantages, we hope to be better able to guard for the future. It is also worthy of particular remark, that the mortality amongst our people should by no means be imputed to the situation selected for our first settlement. On the contrary, we have every reason to presume that the fatal diseases were contracted by them either on board the vessels, to which they appear to have been a good deal confined on a sickly

coast ; or at such temporary abodes on shore as were resorted to for shelter, until the necessary arrangements could be completed for obtaining a grant of the lands contemplated as the site of our intended settlement, and until fixed habitations could be there constructed, and they could draw around them the ordinary comforts of domestic life. All this is the work of time, and our people appear, in this encounter, to have met with unexpected delays. It must be obvious to the least reflection, what labors, what privations, and what exposure to all the worst influences of the climate, in its worst unfavorable situation, the *first* adventurers must encounter who arrive, in the sickly season, with all this work before them ; and how different must be the situation of their successors, who upon their arrival, will find all the first difficulties conquered ; and, immediately quitting the coast, may resort, at once, to the hospitable abodes of friends prepared to receive them into the bosom of an organized society. We do, therefore, expect a more full developement of the intelligence received from Africa, with the well assured hope that it will not be found to fortify any radical objection against our scheme of colonization ; nor even to require any change in the site proposed for it : but, if further experience and observation shall have shown any necessity for a change, it can be effected without difficulty ; and, if we may trust to any conclusions from human testimony at all, it would seem to be proved, beyond any rational doubt, that numerous situations, in extensive tracts of the most salubrious and fertile country, may be obtained near the western coast of Africa. We are pleased to discover

that the free colored people of this country are not intimidated ; numbers of the most respectable and intelligent of that population are renewing their entreaties to be sent out this fall ; and agents well qualified have already offered themselves to lead them. With these views and encouragements, the Board of Managers propose to send out one or two vessels in the course of next month, and solicit the co-operation and assistance of their auxiliaries and friends.

Whatever funds may now be in their hands, and such as may be collected in the course of a few weeks, they will please forward, without delay, to Mr. Richard Smith, Treasurer of the Society.

By order of the Board :

E. B. CALDWELL, SECRETARY.

[B.]

List of Subscribers to the Auxiliary Society of Frederick county, Virginia.

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Augustine C. Smith, Secretary.

Obed Waite, Treasurer.

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Rev. William Hill,		
Rev. William Meade,		
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Nathaniel Burwell,	500	James M. Hite,	100
Philip Burwell,	500	John Kerfoot,	100

	<i>Doll's.</i>		<i>Doll's.</i>
Rev. William Meade,	500	James Sowers,	100
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David Meade,	500	Robert Berkeley,	100
John Milton,	500	James Davis,	100
William Carnegy,	500	Stephen Davis,	100
Oliver Funston,	200	Judith Blackburn,	100
James Ship,	200	Rev. William Hill,	50
Susan Meade,	100	Hon. Robert White,	50
Mary Meade,	100	Obed Waite,	50
Lucy Meade,	100	James Baker,	50
Rev. Alex. Balmain,	100	Edward Smith,	50
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Mrs. Page, of Fairfield,	100	Fielding Towers,	50
Mrs. Norris,	100	Phil. Nelson, donation	100
William Hay, sen.	100	Adam Boyston, do.	10

[C.]

List of Subscribers and Members of the Society, at Washington.

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Bushrod Washington, Mount Vernon, Va.	100
Charles Marsh, Woodstock, Vermont,	30
Elias B. Caldwell, Washington,	30
George Peter, Maryland,	30
John Laird, Georgetown, D. C.	30
F. S. Key, do.	30
Edward Colston, Berkly county, Virginia.	30

	Dolls.
C. F. Mercer, Loudon county, do.	30
Wm. H. Fitzhugh, Fairfax county, do.	50
H. Clay, Lexington, Kentucky,	30
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Robert Ralston, Philadelphia, Pa.	100
Samuel Archer, do.	50
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Wm. H. Crawford, Georgia,	30
J. T. Shaaf, Georgetown, D. C. (deceased)	30
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William Garnett, Essex county, Va.	50
Henry Foxall, Georgetown, D. C.	50

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